THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) No Sir. This is evident from the following:—

Year	No. of atrocities and other crimes against SCs and STs by non SC and non STs.
1994	38927
1995	38494
1996	35413

In so far as, crimes against other weaker sections are concerned, data is not maintained.

(c) and (d) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 provides for stringent penalties for various kinds of atrocities committed on SCs and STs by persons belonging to other communities. Rules notified under the Act in 1995 provide stringent framework and procedures for various measures to deal with atrocities which include provision of monetary relief and rehabilitation to the victims of atrocities.

Central financial assistance is released to the State Govts. and UT Admns. to support measures undertaken by them for effective implementation of the Act which includes the provision of adequate facilities including legal aid, the appointment of officers for initiating or supervising prosecutions, setting up of Special Courts, conducting periodic survey and identification of atrocity prone areas. During the VIIIth Five Year Plan, as against the provision of Rs. 27.70 crores, a sum of Rs. 50.17 crores was released as central assistance to the States and UTs for the effective implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The position is reviewed from time to time with the State Governments and U.T. Admns.

Schemes for welfare of tribals in Melghat forest region

2158. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various schemes of the Ministry which are currently implemented or under implementation in the Melghat Forest region of Amravati District in Maharashtra where 4500 tribal children have died due to malnutrition and diseases during the last three years;

(b) the number and types of beneficiaries who are getting or have got the benefits of the various schemes;

(c) what more can be done in this area on war footing to prevent the deaths of tribal children; and

(d) the long term steps which will be taken for the welfare of the tribals?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The Ministry of Welfare is not implementing any specific programme/scheme for the Melghat forest region of Amravati District in Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Welfare provides Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub Plan to the States for supplementing the State efforts for providing assistance to tribal families for family oriented income generating schemes meant to raise Scheduled Tribes above the poverty line. Loans are also provided by the National Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation through its

State channelising agencies for providing employment/income generating assets on subsidised loan to members of the STs. Reservations in employment are also provided to the STs under the constitution. It is further intended that different programmes for improving literacy amongst the STs and providing them with opportunities for vocational education and training will help them to cross the poverty line in coming years.

A Central Planning Committee (CPC) under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Welfare has been in existence since 1993 to monitor preventive measures against deaths of children in remote and backward tribal areas. This Committee, in consultation with the State Governments, has identified 369 Blocks in 52 districts in 13 States which include Melghat Forest Area as vulnerable in this respect and where measures are required to prevent such occurence. The concerned State Governments are required to prepare specific action plans for this purpose and to operationalise and implement these plans in identified areas, rtgirously, particularly during the hardship season from May to September, every year. The measures to be taken under the action plans include setting up of early warning systems, and intensification of programmes in basic areas such as drinking water, health services, nutrition, public distribution system and employment generation. The concerned Central Ministries/Departments such as Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Food Procurement and Distribution, Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution are expected to monitor the action taken in this regard by the concerned Departments in the respective State Governments.

Welfare schemes/programmes for providing employment to SCs/STs minorities etc

2159. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Welfare Schemes/ Programmes being implemented in the country for providing employment to the persons belonging to SCs/STs/ Minorities/OBCs, and terrorist affected widows/children;

(b) the amount allocated for the aforesaid purpose during the period from 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) Details of Welfare Schemes/Programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Welfare alongwith amount allocated for the same during the last three years is given in the attached Statement. (*See* below). No such scheme for terrorist affected widows/children